

1897.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

—OF THE—

GULF MISSION CONFERENCE

—OF—

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

CHARLES K. WOODSON, Secretary.

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JOURNAL

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Gulf Mission Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

HELD AT

JENNINGS, LOUISIANA,

Jan. 21-25, 1897.

Vol. 2, No. 1.

JENNINGS, LA.,
Times Printing House,
1897.

Officers of the Conference.

PRESIDENT,

BISHOP JOHN M. WALDEN, D. D., LL. D.

[Address, 220 West Fourth street, Cincinnati, Ohio.]

SECRETARY,

CHAS. K. WOODSON,

[Jennings, Calcasieu Parish, La.]

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

JOHN H. BURGER,

[Welsh, La.]

STATISTICAL SECRETARIES,

C. H. HARRIS,

[Crowley, La.]

P. J. ROBIDOUX,

[Crowley, La.]

TREASURER,

IRA N. PARDEE, D. D.

[Jennings, La.]

Gulf Mission Conference Appointments---1897.

CYRUS A. KING (*La.*) *Superintendent.*

[Postoffice, Lake Charles, La.]

Baldwin, C. K. Woodson.

Beaumont and Port Arthur, to be supplied by A. C. Williamson.

Crowley, C. H. Harris.

Duson, to be supplied by Abel Hoffpauir.

Ebenezer, P. C. Chaney.

French Mission, Lafayette and Pine Grove, P. J. Robidoux.

Jennings, I. N. Pardee.

Lake Charles, to be supplied.

LaPorte and Texas City, Texas, to be supplied by G. W. L. Smith.

Lakeview, to be supplied.

Marshall, Texas, J. W. Lively.

Oberlin, to be supplied by Thos. Wilson.

Pine Woods, to be supplied.

Raymond and Lakeside, to be supplied by J. F. Ross.

Shelbyville, Texas, W. M. Zimmerman.

Welsh, J. H. Burger.

Woodville, Texas, F. J. Browning.

Chas.K. Woodson, A. M.,	{	President of The Southern
		University, Jennings, La.,
	}	President of Baldwin Academy.

Disciplinary Questions.

GULF MISSION CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Held in Jennings, La., January 21-25, 1897, Bishop John M. Walden presiding; Chas. K. Woodson, Secretary, postoffice address, Jennings, Calcasieu Parish, La.

- Question 1.—Who have been received by transfer, and from what conferences? Ans. C. A. King, Chas. K. Woodson, Ira N. Pardee, P. J. Robidoux, and J. H. Burger (1st yrs. studies) Louisiana conference; C. H. Harris, North Dakota conference; P. C. Chaney, Alabama conference.
- Question 3.—Who have been received on credentials, and from what churches? Ans. James W. Lively and Francis J. Browning, elders from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
- Question 4.—Who have been received on trial? (a). In studies of the first year? Ans. Walter Zimmerman.
- Question 5.—Who have been continued on trial? (a). In studies of the first year? Ans. John H. Burger (1896).
- Question 11.—What others have been elected and ordained deacons? (a). As local preachers? Ans. Walter Zimmerman.
- Question 13.—Was the character of each preacher examined? Ans. This was done as the name of each preacher was called in open conference.
- Question 21.—What other personal notations should be made? Ans. The orders of Thomas Wilson, an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were recognized.
- Question 25.—What is the statistical report for this year? Ans. See statistical tables.
- Question 26.—What is the aggregate of the benevolent collections as reported by the conference treasurer? Ans. See treasurer's report.
- Question 29.—Where are the preachers stationed? Ans. See list of appointments.
- Question 30.—Where shall the next annual meeting be held? Ans. Crowley, Louisiana.

Gulf Mission Conference Roll.

NAME.	ADDRESS.
Browning, Francis J.,	Woodville, Texas.
Burger, John H.,	Welsh, La.
Chaney, P. C.,	Crowley, La.
Harris, C. H.,	Crowley, La.
King, Cyrus A.,	Lake Charles, La.
Lively, J. W.,	Marshall Texas.
Pardee, Ira N.,	Jennings, La.
Robidoux, P. J.,	Crowley, La.
Woodson, Chas. K.,	Jennings, La.
Zimmerman, Walter,	Shelbyville, Texas.

EPISCOPAL DIRECTORY FOR 1896-1900.

Bishop Thomas Bowman, 3966 Delmar Ave., Saint Louis, Mo.
 Bishop Randolph S. Foster, Roxbury, Mass.
 Bishop Stephen M. Merrill, 57 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.
 Bishop Edward G. Andrews, 150 Fifth Ave., New York.
 Bishop Henry W. Warren, University Park, Colorado.
 Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, 2043 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Bishop John F. Hurst, Washington, D. C.
 Bishop William X. Ninde, Detroit, Mich.
 Bishop John M. Walden, 220 West Fourth St., Cincinnati, O.
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 Bishop Daniel A. Goodsell, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 Bishop Charles C. McCabe, Fort Worth, Tex.
 Bishop Earl Cranston, Portland, Ore.

MISSIONARY BISHOPS.

Bishop William Taylor, 150 Fifth Ave., New York.
 Bishop James M. Thoburn, Bombay, India.
 Bishop Joseph C. Hartzell, Vivi, Congo, Africa.

JOURNAL.

THURSDAY, FIRST DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 21, 1897.

First Annual Session.—The Gulf Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church convened in its First Annual Session at Jennings, Louisiana, Thursday, January the twenty-first, 1897, at 8:30 a. m., Bishop John M. Walden, D. D., LL. D., presiding.

Opening Religious Services.—Bishop Walden read a lesson from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament Scriptures, relating to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and announced the 319th hymn from the Methodist Hymnal. After some solemn and pointed remarks upon the sacred observance of this Holy Sacrament the Bishop proceeded with the administration of the Lord's Supper, assisted by the Superintendent, Cyrus A. King, and the Pastor, Ira N. Pardee.

Roll Call.—The Secretary of the last Session of the Gulf Mission, Charles K. Woodson, called the roll of the Mission, and the following brethren being present answered to their names: P. C. Chaney, Ira N. Pardee, Cyrus A. King, Chas. K. Woodson, Asbury Wilkinson, John T. Gilman, J. F. Ross.

Additions to the Roll.—On motion the name of C. H. Harris was added to the roll.

Election of Officers.—On motion of the Superintendent, Chas. K. Woodson was elected Secretary and C. H. Harris Statistical Secretary. On motion the Secretaries were granted the privilege of nominating their assistants. John H. Burger was nominated and elected Assistant Secretary and P. J. Robidoux, Assistant Statistical Secretary. On motion Ira N. Pardee was elected Conference Treasurer.

Organization of the Gulf Mission Conference.—The Bishop then proceeded to organize the Gulf Mission Conference by announcing the following transfers: Ira N. Pardee, P. J. Robidoux, Chas. K. Woodson, John H. Burger and Cyrus A. King from the Louisiana Conference, C. H. Harris from the North Dakota Conference, and P. C. Chaney from the Alabama Conference. The Secretaries and Treasurer elected above were continued as Secretaries of the Conference.

Standing Committees.—The following standing committees were read and approved:

Sabbath Observance.—P. A. Drown.

Temperance.—P. J. Robidoux.

Sunday School and Tracts.—P. A. Drown.

Education.—Chas. K. Woodson.

Auditing.—C. H. Harris.

Bible Cause.—J. H. Burger.

Church Extension.—Ira N. Pardee.

State of the Church.—Asbury Wilkinson.

Periodicals.—P. C. Chaney.

Mission Cause.—Ira N. Pardee.

Publishing Minutes.—The Secretary.

Epworth League.—Ira N. Pardee.

Public Worship.—The Pastor and Superintendent.

(Certain brothers not members of the Conference were requested to serve on standing committees.)

To Fix the Time.—On motion of Ira N. Pardee, the time of the regular Session was fixed at 9:00 a. m., the first half hour to be spent in devotional exercises, and 12 o'clock as the hour of adjournment.

Conference Relations.—On motion of Ira N. Pardee a committee of three was ordered on Conference relations. Ira N. Pardee, C. H. Harris and P. C. Chaney were made this committee.

Book Accounts.—On motion of the Superintendent the Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago and New York book accounts were placed in the hands of P. C. Chaney for collection. Other Church papers in the hands of the Bishop were referred to their respective committees.

Resolutions.—Resolutions respecting the restrictions of the liquor traffic in the District of Columbia were read by the Secretary and adopted. (See resolution.)

Introductions.—The following brethren were introduced to the Conference by the Bishop: C. H. Harris, J. W. Lively, F. J. Browning, Thos. Wilson, W. W. Tucker, Walter Zimmerman, M. T. Smedley, G. W. L. Smith, Abel Hoffpauir, Jas. Ellis, Lastie Hoffpauir, Henry Faulk, John T. Gilman.

Reporters.—On motion of Ira N. Pardee, P. A. Drown was appointed reporter for the Southwestern Advocate of Chicago, J. W. Lively reporter for the Times-Democrat and Picayune, New Orleans, and Jas. Ellis was requested to report the proceedings of the Conference to the Central Christian Advocate at St. Louis.

Remarks.—At this juncture the Bishop spoke at some length concerning the privileges and powers of a Mission Conference.

Question 13.—Question thirteen was taken up, and Superintendent Cyrus A. King was called, his character passed and he read his report. (See report.)

On motion of P. C. Chaney, the Superintendent was requested to furnish his report for publication in the minutes of the Conference.

Introductions.—The following members of the church at Lake Charles were introduced by the Bishop to the Conference: Prof. S. A. Knapp, Gen. T. T. Taylor and E. Hamand.

Announcements.—After the usual announcements by the Pastor, Ira N. Pardee, the Conference adjourned at 12 o'clock with benediction by Bishop Walden.

FRIDAY, SECOND DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 22, 1897.

Religious Exercises.—The Session of the second day was opened promptly at 9:00 o'clock by Bishop Walden. The religious exercises for the first half hour were conducted by F. J. Browning.

Minutes Read and Approved.—The minutes of the first day's Session were read, corrected and approved.

Addition to the Roll.—The Superintendent announced the presence of P. J. Robidoux and J. H. Burger, and their names were added to the roll of the Conference.

Committee on Memoirs.—On motion of the Superintendent, Asbury Wilkinson was requested to act as a committee on memoirs.

Additions to the Standing Committee on Education.—On motion the following brethren were added to the committee on Education: J. H. Burger, Ira N. Pardee, C. H. Harris.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The Bishop addressed the Conference upon the importance of the Church conforming to the directions of the General Conference respecting public worship. Among the many good things in this address, we note the following: "Careful attention should be given to the introduction of our Church Hymnal. The grand old tunes should not be superceded by the

miserable ditties as are sometimes used in our Sunday schools. Every Methodist preacher is called to be an evangelist, and our preachers should so preach that their ministry should have fruits in the salvation of souls, and not wait for some tramp evangelist to come around who goes where he can get the most for his services." The Bishop spoke at length concerning what he was pleased to term a New Testament revival—the conviction of sinners, the conversion of mourners, the reclaiming of backsliders and the sanctification of believers. The best thing that any Church can have is a New Testament revival.

Thirteenth Question.—The 13th question was resumed. The following Pastors answered to their names, their character passed, and in addition to the regular report of the Benevolent collections, the Pastors and the following supplies made a general statement of their work: Chas. K. Woodson, P. C. Chaney, Ira N. Pardee, P. J. Robidoux, A. C. Williamson, Asbury Wilkinson, John T. Gilman, J. F. Ross, J. H. Burger, Thos. Wilson.

Time Extended.—By permission, the time was extended beyond 12 o'clock. The report of Pastors and supplies was resumed, and G. W. L. Smith, C. H. Harris and F. J. Browning answered to their names, their character passed and they reported their work.

Adjournment.—After the announcements by the Pastor, Ira N. Pardee, Conference adjourned by singing the Doxology and benediction by Bishop Walden.

SATURDAY, THIRD DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 23, 1897.

Religious Exercises.—The Session of the third day was opened at 9:00 o'clock by Bishop Walden, with religious services conducted by J. W. Lively.

Minutes.—The minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Remarks.—The Bishop addressed the Conference upon the nature and permanency of a revival, the conditions of grace and the work of God in the saving of souls.

The 13th Question Resumed.—The 13th question was resumed and the following supplies answered to their names and reported their work: Walter Zimmerman and Francis J. Browning.

Remarks.—The Bishop made a plain statement concerning the work of our Church in missionary fields whose doors are open to us, and that the amount of money contributed by the Church is the measure of our responsibility as touching the amount of work to be done in those fields. He also made clear the methods and operations of the work of the Missionary Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with reference to our work at home and in foreign fields.

Reports of Committees.—The committee on Missions reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on Church Extension reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on locating a school of high grade reported, and the report was referred to the committee on Education.

Board of Examiners.—The Bishop appointed, in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, a Board of Conference Examiners. Cyrus A. King, Ira N. Pardee and C. H. Harris were constituted such a Board.

Remarks and Adjournment.—After some blessed words of counsel by the Bishop, upon the relation of brother to brother, as exemplified in the Epistle of John the Evangelist, and the singing of the hymn, "My Faith Looks up to Thee," the Conference adjourned, with benediction by Bishop Walden, to meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 23, 1897.

The afternoon Session was opened with religious exercises by Bishop Walden, at the conclusion of which the Bishop addressed the Conference upon the work done in our Sunday schools, emphasizing the thought that our Pastors should use their influence with the officers and teachers to secure the attendance of the children and young people of our schools upon the public services of the Church; and that the Epworth League membership should be brought into a close relationship with the regular means of grace of the Church.

Reports of Committees Resumed.—The report of committees was resumed at the conclusion of the Bishop's remarks.

The committee on Sunday schools reported, and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on Tracts reported, and the report was adopted. (See report.)

Pentecostal Service.—At 4 o'clock the Bishop called upon Bro. F. J. Browning to conduct the Pentecostal service. Then followed a meeting of singular impressiveness. The altar was filled with seekers, and a wonderful revival season of grace and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost came like an anointing upon the people. It was a refreshing sight to witness such a scene in the midst of the business of the Conference, our beloved Bishop stopping the regular work of the Conference to engage in the salvation of souls. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Conference Business Resumed.—At 5:10 o'clock the Conference resumed its regular work.

On call, the Statistical Secretary made his report, and the report was adopted. (See statistical tables.)

The Auditing Committee reported, and the report was adopted. (See report.)

On motion it was ordered that we adjourn to meet in a night session at the close of the revival service at 9:00 o'clock.

Adjourned with benediction by Bishop Walden.

NIGHT SESSION.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 23, 9:30, 1897.

The Conference was called to order by the Bishop at 9:30 o'clock, at the close of the revival meeting.

Minutes Approved.—The minutes of the day's session were read and approved.

The Board of Examiners reported the case of Walter Zimmerman, who was properly recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Jennings for admission on trial, and also recommended by the same Quarterly Conference for election to deacon's orders as a local preacher. On motion of the Superintendent, Walter Zimmerman was admitted on trial, and placed in the class of the first year, and elected to deacon's orders.

The committee on Conference Relations reported the following cases: Francis J. Browning, James W. Lively and Thos. Wilson, located elders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and recommended these brethren for recognition of orders.

On motion of the Superintendent, the orders of Francis J. Browning, James W. Lively and Thos. Wilson as local elders were recognized.

The Committee on Education reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Conference adjourned to meet Monday at 8:00 a. m., with benediction by Bishop Walden.

MONDAY, FOURTH DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 25, 1897.

Religious Exercises.—The fourth session of the Conference was opened Monday at 8 o'clock by Bishop Walden, with the religious exercises conducted by James W. Lively.

Minutes.—The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

On motion the Secretaries were appointed a committee on resolutions.

On motion Francis J. Browning and James W. Lively were received as elders from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Reports of Committees Continued.—The committees on Periodicals, Temperance, Bible Cause, Epworth League and Publishing minutes reported, and the reports were adopted. (See reports.)

On motion the Secretary was requested to publish 400 copies of the minutes of the Conference.

On motion a subscription was taken for the minute fund and the following persons subscribed: I. N. Pardee \$5.00, C. A. King \$5.00, C. K. Woodson \$5.00, J. W. Lively \$5.00, P. C. Chaney \$5.00, J. H. Burger \$5.00, C. H. Harris \$5.00, J. F. Ross \$2.50, Asbury Wilkinson \$2.50, Walter Zimmerman \$2.50, P. J. Robidoux \$2.50, Abel Hoffpauir \$2.50, F. J. Browning \$2.50, Thos. Wilson \$2.50, cash \$1.25.

The board of examiners reported the case of J. H. Burger, and he was continued in the class of the first year.

The Bishop requested the Superintendent to report the nomination of the Conference Board of Church Extension. Ira N. Pardee, C. H. Harris, Chas. K. Woodson, C. A. King, W. M. Taylor and Walter Coffin were confirmed as such Board.

To Fix Place.—Crowley, La., was selected as the place of our next Annual Session.

Report of Committees Continued.—The committee on Sabbath Observance reported, and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Conference Treasurer reported, and the report was adopted. (See report.)

On motion the subscribers to the minute fund were requested to pay cash, and those who can not pay cash be given an extension limited to sixty days.

Missionary Appropriations.—The missionary appropriations were read and received by the Conference.

Educational Interests.—On the request of the Bishop, a full statement concerning the educational interests of the Conference with respect to the location of an institution of high grade at Jennings, La., was made by Chas. K. Woodson.

On motion of Ira N. Pardee, the Superintendent and Secretary of the Gulf Mission Conference be and are hereby constituted a standing committee on the publication of the minutes of 1898. Each Pastor appointed to any charge within the bounds of the Conference shall take a collection, to be known as "Our Conference minute collection," during the month of December, 1897, which shall be forwarded to the Secretary before January 1st, 1898; and that the Conference pay the balance necessary to cover the publication of 500 copies of the minutes, which shall be circulated free.

On motion the Superintendent was authorized to name the chairmen of the standing committees for 1898.

The committee on resolutions reported, and the report was adopted. (See report.)

Adjournment.—On motion of the Secretary, it was ordered that after the approval of the minutes, religious services, and the reading of the appointments, the Conference stand adjourned.

On motion of Ira N. Pardee, the Secretary was requested to purchase a substantial Conference trunk, and report bill for same at the next session.

Reading of the Appointments.—After the reading and approval of the minutes, and singing of the hymn, "A Charge to Keep I Have," the appointments were read, and the Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Walden.

Attest:

CHAS. K. WOODSON,
Secretary.

JOHN M. WALDEN,
President.

REPORTS.

Superintendent's Report.

To the Bishop and Members of the Gulf Mission Conference:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Four years ago this month, Bishop Andrews organized the Gulf Mission in the old church, which stood on the ground now occupied by this beautiful building. We then had a Church membership of three hundred and fifty-four. There were at that time seven organized charges. We also had four church buildings and two parsonages valued at seven thousand dollars.

The work has moved steadily forward from that small beginning, not with the rapidity we have desired, or should have made but for the reduced Missionary appropriations from year to year; yet, with all the discouragements under which we labor, the published minutes of the present session will show one thousand church members or more, and I think Bishop Walden will appoint at least twenty ministers to as many circuits and stations. This is more than double the number that were sent into this work three years ago.

At the time of our organization, Bishop Andrews asked me this question, "Do you think this country will settle up, though it be slow, with people from the north?" My answer was, "I have no doubt it will." We are not disappointed in that direction. The immigration has continued, and is increasing year by year.

These oncoming thousands—we have to number them that way now—demand the ministry of the Old Mother Church, to which they have been accustomed in their northern homes. Thus many doors for our work are opened.

This thriving town of Jennings and surrounding country is a forcible illustration of the soundness of my faith, as expressed to Bishop Andrews.

There is another phase of our work which makes large demands upon us at the present time, and opens to us fruitful fields, viz.: the Holiness movement—so-called—which has reached this south-land, and has brought the “uttermost” salvation, of which Paul speaks, to many hearts in all the churches of this country. This movement finds little sympathy in these ecclesiastical bodies. Indeed, it has awakened antagonisms so strong that many of the advocates and adherents of this “old-time religion” feel compelled to seek more congenial church homes than those afforded.

In the Methodist Episcopal church they think, and we believe, is this congenial home. Our Methodist Discipline still contains that historic statement, “In 1729 two young men in England, reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness, followed after it, and incited others to do so. In 1737 they saw, likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but, still, holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise a holy people.”

And our beloved board of Bishops, with this statement from the pen of John and Charles Wesley before them, say, in their address to the members of the Methodist Episcopal church: “We believe that God’s design in raising up the Methodist Episcopal church in America was to evangelize the continent and spread scriptural holiness over these lands.” Amen! God help us to be true to our mission.

We have now eight church buildings and two parsonages, with church lots at Lake Charles and Iowa, valued at twelve

thousand dollars. Considering the great stress of finances, growing out of the general condition of the country, and the special pressure in this territory from low price of rice two years ago, and the failure of crops this past year, we think this a fair showing. With ordinary conditions we would have built churches at Lake Charles, Iowa, Kinder, Roanoke, La Porte and Texas City the past year. As it has been, all we have been able to do, except at Oberlin, where we have a church nearly completed, is to secure grounds, and lay plans for the future.

At our first session there were reported ten Methodist Episcopal Sunday schools. We now have between twenty and thirty doing good work, and as many more union schools, in which our people play an important part. Our preachers have fifty regular preaching places, nearly all of them preaching three times every Sunday, and several two or three times during the week. The Superintendent has visited and preached at nearly all of these fifty appointments during the past year, and at some of them many times. Four to ten sermons a week, aggregating three hundred or more in the past twelve months, which, added to the thousands of miles of travel, and other duties, not to say privileges, of the Superintendent, have left him little time for pleasure, or the enjoyments of home.

The men of this Mission are not indifferent to the question of higher education for our people. At our last session a committee was appointed, "in harmony with the views of Bishop FitzGerald and Dr. Hartsell, to locate a school of high grade somewhere on the Gulf coast." The committee have attended to this important work. Jennings was selected as the best location, all thing considered. The Southern University was chartered under the laws of Louisiana, Nov. 14, 1896, with a property value of \$30,000.

Four years ago last May the General Conference lifted us out of the Louisiana Conference (where we started as the Lake Charles District of that Conference) unto the dignity of "The Gulf Mission."

Our growth was sufficient to induce the General Conference of May, 1896, to add the word "Conference" to our name. By that action we stand today "The Gulf Mission Conference," small, but having a mission in this south-land, full of the courage born of faith in Him who commanded, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Sustained and urged on by the dear old church, which knows no geographical lines, extending her beneficent arms around the globe, we believe there is no doubt as to the outcome of this new Conference.

Our last Session under the superintendency of Bishop Fitzgerald, gave us a fresh baptism of the holy ghost, and we went to our work full of hope, faith and courage. We expected great things, which have been realized, not on all lines, but on some, especially in revival work and the ingathering of souls. Nearly every charge has been graciously visited by Divine influence.

The protracted drouth and short crops have made church-building and debt-paying practically impossible; hence our advance in this direction has been small. Our benevolences have suffered, and in many cases our salaries, meager as they were, have not been paid. Yet we have much for which to praise God.

Baldwin charge has had the pastoral care of Professor C. K. Woodson, the President of Baldwin Academy. This church is situated in a Catholic community and is very small, made up almost wholly of persons connected with the school. The charge and pastoral supervision should be continued as long as our church maintains the school. There is little or no hope of any considerable growth of our church in that community.

Crowley charge was divided at our last session and left to be supplied. I secured the services of Rev. G. W. L. Smith. He has done good work, and the people would be very glad to have him continued another year. We have a church and parsonage at Crowley, valued at two thousand dollars, with a debt of four hundred and fifty dollars, which no doubt the brethren will be able

to cancel in time. There is one Methodist Episcopal Sunday school.

Ebenezer charge, lying south and west of Crowley—a part of Crowley charge until last Conference—started with three appointments, two church organizations, one at Ebenezer and one at Midland, and one class organized at Duson station. We have a church building at Ebenezer valued at twelve hundred dollars, with a debt to the Church Extension Board of one hundred and sixty-two dollars. There is a chapel at Minden, valued at three hundred dollars; no debt. A parsonage has been built the past year, valued at six hundred dollars, on which there is a debt of nearly two hundred dollars. Two Epworth League Chapters and two Methodist Episcopal Sunday schools are in successful operation on this charge. Ebenezer charge is made up almost entirely of native southern people, and is the largest charge, in numbers, in the Conference. Bro. P. C. Chaney, of the Alabama Conference, was appointed to this work at our last session. He has done good work, and about fifty members have been added to the church. Loss of crops at this place, as at others, has embarrassed the work.

French work, headquarters at Pastor's home near Pine Grove in Vermilion parish, with Bro. P. J. Robidoux in charge, has three exhorters, one Sunday school, four regular preaching places and a hundred members. The work goes slowly among these French people, yet it is progressing. The people are poor, as a rule, many in a destitute condition. The French work has no church property excepting a fine lot, donated by a Presbyterian brother, on which we hope to erect a building in the near future.

Raymond and Lakeside appear in our minutes of last year for the first time. The work was planned by Bishop FitzGerald. Its appointments were Raymond, taken from the Jennings charge, and Roanoke and the Lake Arthur country, taken from the Welsh work. This charge has one church building, valued at twelve hundred dollars, a small debt to the Church Extension Board.

We have three Sunday schools and an Epworth League doing efficient work. A blessed revival of religion at Raymond has doubled the membership, giving them now a membership of fifty. At the other points there has been a depletion, caused from removals, especially at Lakeside. Bro. J. F. Ross has supplied this work the past year.

Welsh charge, consisting of the town of Welsh and the country lying north, had at the beginning of the year two regular appointments, one at Welsh, where the pastor preaches both morning and night, and the other at Meadow Prairie, served at three o'clock in the afternoon. Another class has been organized at Fenton, on the Watkins R'y, and a regular appointment established there. In the town of Welsh we have a church building valued at twelve hundred dollars, but badly in debt, unable even to pay the interest to the Board, in the present condition of the country. Our society is very small in the town, yet it has continued its Sunday school and regular appointments. We hope for better things at Welsh with the return of prosperity to the country. Bro. E. L. Wells, of the Nebraska Conference, was appointed to Welsh. The people like him and would be glad of his return, but he has decided not to take work the coming year.

Oberlin charge. Two small railroad towns on the Watkins R'y and China on Jennings prairie make up this work. A church building has been erected on our lots at Oberlin during the year and is nearly ready for dedication, valued at seven hundred dollars, with a Church Extension debt of one hundred and twenty-five dollars. We have lots at Kinder, where we hope to erect a church the coming year. Bro. Burger, a probationer of the Georgia Conference, was appointed to this charge. He has done good work. We have a Methodist Episcopal Sunday school at Kinder, and Union Sunday schools at Oberlin and China. Hard times has made the work difficult for the pastor. He and his wife have taught school to supplement the salary. Bro. Burger was also placed in charge of Alexandria, as appears in our minutes, with the

expectation that he would be able to open our work there during the year. The failure of certain promises by railroads has made it inexpedient to do anything on that line.

Lake View charge, consisting of Lake View church and Iowa, has been served efficiently by Father Wilkinson. The people love him for his "work's sake." We have a church building at Lake View, valued at twelve hundred dollars, with a debt of two hundred and fifty dollars to the Church Extension Board. Lots have been secured at Iowa, valued at one hundred dollars. There are two good Sunday schools and an Epworth League.

Lake Charles.—Bro. Westfall, of the Iowa Conference, was appointed, remained two weeks and returned to his northern home. Bro. Harris dropped in upon us the following week, and after satisfying ourselves that he would do, we appointed him to the work. He has served the charge under pressure and great affliction the entire year. Sister Harris, an amiable and beloved woman, wife of our brother, after a brief sickness, was taken to her Heavenly home. Grace sustained our brother, and he went on with his work. The charge has increased in membership and efficiency for work. A lot, costing ten hundred and forty dollars, has been purchased, and a subscription of several hundred dollars has been secured, preparatory to building a church. The Sunday school and Epworth League are doing good work. Financial support has not been what it should have been, but as much as could be expected in the condition of business.

La Porte is between Houston and Galveston, Texas. We have six regular preaching places, one Sunday school and about thirty members, with as many more at several points who have not been organized as yet. J. W. Bain was appointed to this and the Texas City charge. In the middle of the year a change was desired. Deeming this best, I made the change near the close of the third quarter. Bro. Bain was left in charge of Texas

City. Rev. Thomas Wilson took charge of the La Porte work. He has been untiring in his labors, and believes this is an inviting field for an energetic man.

Texas City. Bro. Bain continued in charge of the Texas City work, until early in December, when he was received into one of the Texas Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was sent to California. Bro. Bain was sick several weeks before leaving, and perhaps this is the cause of his failing to close up his work, and give proper notice of his intention and action.

Beaumont and Port Arthur was placed on the list of appointments at our last session, and Bro. A. C. Williamson, a local preacher, placed in charge. Organizations have been made at two points on this work.

Beaumont is an important railroad center. Northern people are coming into the towns and surrounding country, and demand our church and ministry.

For reasons similar to those which placed Beaumont on the list at our last session, Shreveport and Minden were placed there, and left to be supplied. I have made two visits to Shreveport and the country west on the Texas and Pacific R'y, but found the time had not come for us to open work at Shreveport. A fruitful field was found farther west, and an organization was effected at Marshall, Texas, and since then at other points in that region. Bro. F. J. Browning, who came to us from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has been in charge the past quarter.

Woodville. Communications from Tyler county, of which Woodville is the county seat, reached me during our last session, inviting me to that county to organize Methodist Episcopal societies. I visited the place in February, and organized a charge of five regular points and four classes, and placed a local preacher, who came to us from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in charge. Bro. W. C. Mann is a young man of great promise. I

expected him here to be received into the traveling connection, but sickness prevents his coming. He has done good work. This charge numbers about ninety members at present. Three Sunday schools have been organized, with a very hopeful outlook. The field is white for harvest in all that northwestern part of our Conference. Several men should be placed in that part of the work.

Jennings. This work was divided at our last session, and Jennings made a station. Dr. Pardee continued its pastor. The year has been one of remarkable growth from immigration and conversions. The charge has more than doubled its membership, and, under the efficient leadership of Bro. Pardee, is the best organized church in the Conference. Its Sunday school, Epworth League and Ladies' Societies are all in line for aggressive work.

God has been very merciful to us the past year; death has been kept far from all our families, except Bro. Harris', where it indeed chose a shining mark. My relations to you, my brethren, have been of the pleasantest nature. I have been welcomed in your homes as a friend and brother. You have shown toward me a spirit of appreciation which has caused me to feel deeply grateful.

Respectfully submitted, CYRUS A. KING,

Superintendent of Gulf Mission Conference.

Lake Charles, La., January 22, 1897.

Educational Report.

LOCATING COMMITTEE.

Report of the committee appointed at the last session of the Gulf Mission, with power to act, with reference to the location of a school of high grade somewhere on the gulf coast, under the approval of Dr. Hartzell, then Secretary of our Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society.

Your committee met in joint session a similar committee from the Austin Conference, first at Houston, then at Galveston and other points, thoroughly examining every offer of importance made for the location of a school on the gulf line in Texas. We found each offer a real estate scheme, requiring more influence and skill to work out than we deemed possible at this time. While each proposition was flattering and possessed merit, the inducements were not sufficient to warrant the undertaking at this time of converting land into money for building purposes, and for endowment necessary to support a school of the grade contemplated by the joint commission. Later your committee were induced to consider propositions from Jennings, La. We met the citizens of this place and the following offer was made us:

First, notes and cash, all equivalent to cash, of \$25,000, and a tract of land within the city limits of 160 acres, in which we believe there is an equity of \$25,000, and other real estate available as residence property. This offer seemed to be so substantial and flattering that after due deliberation we accepted it and located our school in this place.

In this act we do not believe that we transcended the authority given by you to us in your resolution of last year. We may have acted hastily, but time seemed to be the essence of the demand of the citizens of Jennings, as other offers were being made them by other parties, seeking to locate a similar school here. All that we

have done has been after due deliberation and prayer, not hastily in our own judgment, but after more than a half year of investigation, traveling great distances at our own expense.

In order to accept the proposition made by the citizens of Jennings, and in order to hold property under the peculiar laws of the state of Louisiana made and provided for charitable and educational purposes, we found it necessary to have a style and title and to become a body politic in law and in fact by incorporation. Such corporation has been effected and a Board of Regents has been appointed, duly chartered, with constitution and by-laws. A copy of the charter is appended to this report, reading as follows: (See charter.) By-laws, according to the code of the state, have also been formulated and adopted, which we are also ready to submit.

While all of this work of organization has been done, we have only proceeded as far as seemed to us to be necessary before this annual session of the Conference.

We are mindful of the difficulties confronting us in so vast an undertaking, and the great struggle that must ensue before our present work can become anything like the institution made and provided for; but we have felt called to do as we have done. The demand is great on every hand for an institution of college grade. Our young men are leaving us for other localities, where they can obtain a higher education, such as we do not have now on the gulf coast, and in the submission of this report we fully realize the weight of responsibility we have placed upon you, if you accept our work; but we believe that the time will come when the wisdom of our course will be seen, and also that the cause of God will be promoted by our action. We therefore move the acceptance of our report, and reference to the Conference Committee on Education for such action as may be deemed necessary and wise.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. KING,
CHAS. K. WOODSON,
J. W. BAIN,
Committee.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

We are glad to note that all of the schools of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society have been enjoying a year of prosperity although the appropriations have been materially decreased, (the encouraging fact reveals 219 students preparing for the ministry, 285 for the practice of medicine, 12 for the practice of dentistry, 16 of pharmacy and 6 of law; while 482 are students of instrumental music, 7 of art and 688 in normal classes preparing to be teachers. In commercial courses of study there are 1853 and in manual training and trade schools 1548, making an entire enrollment of 5207; in collegiate and academic courses 6742.)

We urge upon our people the necessity of informing themselves concerning the history, character and demands of this work, as inspirations to intelligent and patriotic giving.

Baldwin Academy, located at Baldwin, La., owing to the failure of the rice crop and the general stringency of the times, together with a lack of accommodation and local support, also the unfortunate local surroundings of the institution, this school has not had a prosperous year, and we fear that unless the patronage is greater and new conditions created it will be but a brief time before this institution will have to be abandoned or made a part of the Southern University.

Your committee received the report from the committee appointed by the Gulf Mission in 1896, to meet a joint committee from the Austin Conference as a joint commission, for the purpose of continuing the question of locating a school of high grade somewhere on the gulf coast and approve the work already done.

We recommend the appointment of the following classes of Regents: For five years, Ira N. Pardee, C. A. King, W. M. Taylor, W. E. Coffin, Gilbert N. Brown; for four years, P. J. Robidoux, W. H. Kistner, L. L. Beach, I. D. Williams, F. J. Browning; three years, G. M. King, D. R. Kelsey, Fred F. Morse, M. M. Shannon, W. O. Reynolds; two years, P. M. Kokanour, R. W.

Devilbiss, W. H. Simmons, U. S. Phillips, S. L. Cary; one year, P. A. Drown, G. F. Little, S. J. Johnson, E. F. Rowson and pastor at Lake Charles.

Your committee are intensely anxious that the Southern University shall in every way be a school of the church. Therefore we recommend the appointment of a commission with full power, consisting of three members of the Gulf Mission Conference, together with J. W. Hamilton, D. D., Corresponding Secretary Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, and Rev. L. G. Adkinson, D. D., President New Orleans University, who are hereby requested to serve on said commission, and also that we respectfully request Bishop C. C. McCabe, D. D., to act as chairman of this commission; it being the purpose of this action to secure the establishment of a school of high grade as soon as practicable, the same to be in harmony with the educational work of the church.

We further recommend that a public collection be taken within each pastoral charge for the general cause of Education, and that we include this collection in our apportionments to the various charges, aggregating not less than \$100, said collection to be subject to the disposal of the Conference.

CHAS. K. WOODSON, President,
IRA N. PARDEE, Secretary.

Report of Committee on Missions.

We praise God because of the missionary spirit of this year of grace, marvelous interest in direct soul-winning and steady advance along all lines of true reform. But the church has not done its best, nor will it until all walls are leveled that keep Christ's followers from united action against every enemy of the home and state.

We give praise to God for providences that are teaching his servants their utter dependence upon him and are giving in larger numbers heroic leaders to the world. And while difficult problems are yet unsolved, and millions not yet gospelized, we rejoice that the nations of the world are becoming the nations of our Lord and his Christ.

The Gulf Mission has had a good year, and with some degree of pride we doff the curtailed garments of our interesting infancy, and as quite a vigorous youth assume the role of a Mission Conference, hoping that our shadow may never be less.

As the Mississippi, with its greater tributary the Missouri, carries to the fat regions around the delta a tribute gathered from almost every point of latitude and longitude, so the freshets of immigration are falling upon us ; and those who come, with those who are to the manor born, present a problem for the solution of the church that requires the utmost wisdom, penetration and skill, not simply conciliation but organic work and working toward moral, intellectual, physical, political and Christian interests. In that alone we shall have stability in unity.

The harvest truly is great ; our facilities for gathering the golden grain are limited ; the cry on every hand is for the gospel as expounded by the Old Church, and for the lack of means to compass this interesting field many are seeking communion in other churches. In view of the foregoing facts,

Resolved, That we most earnestly beg the careful and fraternal consideration of the general church, and also commend our Mission Conference to the consideration of our Mission Board, trusting for such appropriations as are necessary to plant our church in communities where the demand is so great that a failure to do so will occasion numerical loss if not the closing of an important door of opportunity.

Brethren, let us labor for the unity and assimilation of the people within our bounds ; for the education of our citizens ; for the promotion of industry ; for a more just and generous sympathy

between all races and classes among us; for holiness of heart, without which no man can see God. Let us implore the God of all grace to deliver us from wanton passions, importunant egotisms, from pride, arrogance and sensual lust, that as a small contingent of this great church and nation we may show forth the praise of God in all the earth.

IRA N. PARDEE, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Church Extension.

We recommend for adoption the following resolutions:

1. We heartily congratulate the Board of Church Extension, and the church at large, on the remarkable success of this work through a period of thirty years.

2. That our country, being new, with rapidly increasing population and unlimited resources, will continue to need church extension, in the future as in the past, and that our church, by fostering and strengthening this work, will increase its own power to promote all forms of Christian and benevolent activity.

3. That we, as a Conference, will not be content with anything less than a full response to the call of the general committee for our proper share in church extension until everywhere, in communities now destitute, the people shall have opportunity to "enter His courts with praise."

4. That our Superintendent be requested to apportion, with care, the full amount asked for church extension to the several pastoral charges for collection; and, that, availing ourselves of the helps provided by the Board, and especially CHRISTIANITY IN EARNEST and GLAD TIDINGS, we will present this cause in all our churches, and endeavor to secure at least the amount asked, in accordance with the plan of our Discipline.

By order of the committee,

IRA N. PARDEE, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Bible Cause.

As the Bible is the text-book of Christianity, a chart for our safe guidance over life's stormy sea, and as there is a need for a wider circulation, a more thorough distribution, of so important a book, we would recommend that steps be taken by this Conference to meet this need. As a means for a realization of this most worthy object, we suggest that it would be well for every pastor to be appointed Bible agent for his charge. That it be a part of his work to ascertain the needs of not only his members, but of every family in his charge and to see that those needs are supplied.

We would suggest, further, that there be three or more—as the Conference in its judgment deems best—Bible depositories to be located at the most central points, these depositories to be depots of supplies for the pastors of the Gulf Mission Conference. That each pastor present a report to the next Conference of the need of his respective charge, and the work done to supply that need.

J. H. BURGER.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Observance.

We regard every form of Sabbath desecration as destructive to vigorous growth in Christian life and character, and injurious to the individual and to society, and antagonistic to the church and offensive to God.

Therefore, we will faithfully and frequently call the attention of those to whom we preach to God's word on this subject, noticing especially the fact that it is God who hath said, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," "Keep my Sabbath and reverence my Sanctuary," and that God hath made the keeping of the Sabbath a sign between him and his people, and that God has in kindness made the Sabbath for man.

We deem it unnecessary to enumerate the grosser modes of Sabbath desecration that are avoided by all who have respect for themselves, but mention as dangerous and wrong those modes of Sabbath desecration that are popular, such as social visiting, pleasure-riding, reading Sunday papers, Sunday excursions and riding on Sunday railroad trains.

P. A. DROWN, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

Your committee on temperance, on making their report, feel that they can add nothing new to this great subject of temperance.

We all regard the suppression of the whisky traffic as something greatly to be desired, and feel that it is altogether true that the general sentiment of the land is being rapidly led to see the same.

There is not an evil on the throne today and holding the scepter but what is on the road to defeat. The liquor traffic is now holding the scepter on thousands of precious souls and homes in this great country of ours. But our God is marching on and the much dreaded monster will soon be dethroned.

We rejoice at the high ground our church has taken on the subject of temperance, and offer the following resolution for your endorsement:

Resolved, That we continue to instill in our people a strong and healthy conviction as to their duty on this great question; and that we especially instruct the young, both by example and precept, so that they may see and shun the evil of intemperance. We cannot forbear to say that the tobacco habit is one of alarming power and fearful tendency. Many thousands of our people are held in slavish chains. As a church may we lift up the standard of sobriety and cleanliness.

P. J. ROBIDOUX, Chairman.

Report of Sunday School Committee.

The religious education of the young is of vast importance, and is committed largely to the Sunday school; therefore we should be careful to select competent teachers; those who are earnest and intelligent and who have clear religious experience, godly in their lives and apt to teach.

We recommend that the plan of normal classes for the better training of teachers be organized wherever practicable, and that the pastor use every honorable influence to have our own lesson helps; periodicals and books used in our schools, and that Methodist Episcopal Sunday schools be organized, if possible, in each Methodist Episcopal society.

There are now in our church 30,259 Sunday schools, 352,627 officers and teachers and 2,585,178 scholars. The Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal church has aided over 3000 schools during the past year, and ask that the Gulf Mission Conference give \$5.00 as their proportion of the \$50,000 needed to carry on the glorious work of the society for the present year.

P. A. DROWN, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Tract Cause.

The Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal church commands a vast assortment of tract literature which is at the service of pastors and tract committees. The society offers to return tracts to the amount of one-half of the amount of collections taken for the tract cause, and to make special grants where circumstances require.

The Tract Society gives to the cause of missions from \$6000 to \$7000 each year, to aid our missions in the circulation of books and periodicals in foreign languages.

The Tract Society asks from the entire church \$50,000 to carry on its important work, and has apportioned to this Mission Conference \$5.00.

We recommend the use of the tract because (1) it is an evangelizing instrument; (2) it is inexpensive; (3) it is adapted to almost every variety of need; (4) it is brief and likely to be read when a book would be neglected; (5) it is convenient to be circulated.

Therefore we appreciate the offer of the society and acknowledge the justice of its request, and avail ourselves of its generous offers, and pledge ourselves as pastors to present its claims to people and make a free use of our tracts.

P. A. DROWN, Chairman.

Church Literature.

WHEREAS, We recognize the important fact that the pulpit and the consecrated religious press are important factors in the education of the masses in the fundamental principles of the Bible and the doctrines and usages of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, 1st, That as ministers and pastors we will make all possible effort to place in the homes and Sunday schools of our Church the literature published by our Book Concern.

Resolved, 2d, That we believe it the duty of every Christian family to supply themselves with church papers and books, so as to educate themselves in the great advance movements of the church.

Resolved, 3d, That we hereby raise our voice against the patronage and use of any other Sunday school literature not

published by our church, because we know that our own literature is wholesome and honest, and as cheap as any, when all things are considered. There is some literature too cheap at any price.

P. C. CHANEY, Chairman.

Epworth League.

The brief history and achievements of the Epworth League fill our hearts with just pride and profound gratitude to God. Its growth among us in this Conference has not been great, but the League idea and feeling is deepening and the indications are that during the coming year many organizations will be effected. To this end we as pastors pledge our best effort.

We recommend for adoption the following resolutions:

1. The strict observance of the model district constitution of the Epworth League, which we have adopted as the constitution of the Gulf Mission Conference.

2. We recommend holding some time during the Conference year a Conference Epworth League Convention, and respectfully request the executive committee to arrange for the same to be held at La Porte, Texas.

3. That we confirm the following nominations by election and that the persons so elected shall constitute the cabinet officers and executive committee of the Gulf Mission Conference Epworth League:

President, Walter E. Coffin, Jennings, La.

1st Vice-President, Walter Zimmerman, Shelbyville, Texas.

2d Vice-President, G. W. L. Smith, La Porte, Texas.

3d Vice-President, pastor of our church at Lake Charles, La.

4th Vice-President, Chas. H. Harris, Crowley, La.

Department of Correspondence, C. K. Woodson, Jennings, La.
Department of Finance, Prof. S. A. Knapp, Lake Charles, La.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Ira N. Pardee, Jennings, La., Chas. K. Woodson, Jennings, La., Frank R. Jaenke, Jennings, La., Prof. S. A. Knapp, Lake Charles, La., F. J. Browning, Woodville, Texas.

Church Property and Conference Claimants.

The following preamble and resolutions were presented to the Conference by Ira N. Pardee:

1. That we re-enact the resolutions contained in our Conference minutes of 1896 on church property.
2. Believing that the time has come to plan for the creation of a permanent fund for the necessitous cases of our Conference, as they shall occur, we recommend that some plan be matured for that purpose, and that a committee be appointed to take immediate steps in that direction, securing money and property under the laws of the state, and investing the same, so that the interest arising from said fund shall be used for our Conference claimants, as the Discipline may direct.
3. That the Conference appoint a committee for the purposes aforementioned. Committee chosen by the Conference, Cyrus A. King, Ira N. Pardee, Prof. S. A. Knapp.

In Memoriam.

MRS. C. H. HARRIS.

Mrs. C. H. Harris was born in the State of Minnesota, at High Forest. Was converted when ten years of age and joined

the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was married to Rev. C. H. Harris on the 3d day of May, 1894, in St. Paul, Minn. To them was born one child, who survives the mother to bless and comfort the heart of the bereaved father. Sister Harris moved with her husband from St. Paul to Minot, North Dakota, where she remained one year, when she and her husband moved to Lake Charles last March. They just became settled in their new home, which they had built since coming to Lake Charles, when she was taken sick with typhoid fever. After ten days of great suffering she passed triumphantly to her eternal home. During her sickness she was cheerful and resigned. Two days before her death she exclaimed, "I see a white robe, a crown, the beautiful streets; I hear the angels sing; it is so beautiful; they are awaiting for me!" A few days before she died she committed her little one to Jesus, and never worried about it afterwards. She had a beautiful Christian character, a happy, genial disposition, always kind and very pleasant in the home circle. She was thoroughly interested in the work of the church. She systematically planned her work among the people. She had planned largely for future work, but was stricken down by the death angel in the midst of her toils. She is greatly missed in the home, where she has left the impress of her beautiful Christian life on the loving hearts of the older children of this dear bereaved father, and they together again mourn the loss of the maternal head of the household; and the charge she was planning to serve so well fails not in their short acquaintance with the deceased to be most favorably impressed by her precious life. Though tenderly nursed and cared for by stranger hands, and by stranger hands her remains put in their last resting-place, and she has gone from the earthly home to the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," doubtless, could she speak to us in our tears, she would say, "Weep for yourselves, but not for me." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

ASBURY WILKINSON.

Resolutions to the United States Senate.

WHEREAS, The National House of Representatives on Dec. 10th passed House Bill No. 7083, to forbid the sale of intoxicating drinks in the capitol or on the capitol grounds, with only seven dissenting votes; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives on December 14th passed House Bill No: 1888, a measure in the interests of temperance, and making restrictions to the traffic in the District of Columbia, by a substantial majority; and

WHEREAS, Both these measures are now pending in the Senate of the United States,

Resolved, That we, the Gulf Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, most heartily approve of these measures and invoke the aid and co-operation of our distinguished Senators to secure the speedy passage of these measures by the Senate of the United States, and that a copy of this preamble and resolution be forwarded by the Secretary to Senators Samuel D. McEnery and Donielson Caffery.

Certificate of Ordination.

This certifies that at Jennings, La., on January 24, 1897, I ordained Walter M. Zimmerman as Deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Given under my hand this 25th day of January, A. D. 1897.

JOHN M. WALDEN.

Attest by Secretary,

CHAS. K. WOODSON.

Members of the Conference Board of Church Extension.

The following persons were, by action of the Conference, constituted a Conference Board of Church Extension: Ira N. Pardee, President; Chas. K. Woodson, Vice-President; W. M. Taylor, Secretary; Walter E. Coffin, Treasurer; S. A. Knapp, C. H. Harris, Cyrus A. King, ex-officio.

Secretary's Financial Report.

JENNINGS, LA., January 23, 1897.

Chas. K. Woodson in account with the Gulf Mission Conference.

	DR.	CR.
To subscriptions,	\$30.00	
To advertising,	31.30	
To balance on last year's account,	7.60	
To balance due the Secretary an account,	7.50	
By publishing minutes,		\$64.00
By postage and expressage,		5.60
By sundries and stationery,		6.80
	<hr/> \$76.40	<hr/> \$76.40

Subscriptions to the Minute Fund.

Ira N. Pardee,	\$5.00
Cyrus A. King,	5.00
Chas. K. Woodson,	5.00
James W. Lively,	5.00
P. C. Chaney,	5.00
John H. Burger,	5.00
C. H. Harris,	5.00
J. F. Ross,	2.50
Asbury Wilkinson,	2.50
Walter Zimmerman,	2.50
P. J. Robidoux,	2.50
Abel Hoffpauir,	2.50
J. F. Browning,	2.50
Thos. Wilson,	2.50
Cash,	1.00
<hr/>	
Total,	\$53.50

Treasurer's Report.

The Conference Treasurer submits the following report of collections for all the benevolences for the Conference year ending Jan. 30, 1897:

For Missions,	\$130 00
Church Extension,	100 00
Sunday School Union,	5 00
Tract Cause,	4 00
Educational Collection,	106 00
Children's Day,	13 00
Bible Cause,	13 00
Other Benevolences,	18 00
Episcopal fund,	12 00
	<hr/>
Total,	401 00

The entire collection reported to the various Societies and cash on hand forwarded to the Secretaries.

Missionary Apportionment--1897.

Beaumont and Port Arthur,	\$ 50.00
Crowley,	100.00
Duson,	30.00
Ebenezer,	120.00
Lake Charles,	150.00
La Porte and Texas City,	100.00
Lakeview,	100.00
Marshall,	80.00
Oberlin,	80.00
Pinewoods,	50.00
Raymond and Lakeside,	100.00
Shelbyville,	80.00
Welsh,	150.00
Woodville,	80.00
Superintendent,	250.00

Total English, \$1520.00

French Mission: Lafayette and Pine Grove,	\$550.00
Superintendent,	50.00
Bible-Reader,	25.00

Total French, \$625.00

I concur in the foregoing appropriations.

JOHN M. WALDEN.

Jennings, La., Jan. 25, 1897.



Ministerial Support.

The apportionment of the Superintendent's claim and the Episcopal Fund for each charge is as follows:

PLACES.	SUPERINTENDENT'S CLAIM.	EPISCOPAL FUND
Baldwin,	\$25.00	\$1.00
Beaumont and Port Arthur,	15.00	1.00
Crowley,	50.00	2.00
Duson,	10.00	1.00
Ebenezer,	40.00	2.00
French Mission: Lafayette and Pine Grove,	30.00	2.00
Jennings,	68.00	3.00
Lake Charles,	50.00	2.00
La Porte and Texas City,	30.00	1.00
Lake View,	25.00	1.00
Marshall,	25.00	1.00
Oberlin,	25.00	1.00
Pine Woods,	10.00	1.00
Raymond and Lakeside,	40.00	2.00
Shelbyville,	25.00	1.00
Welsh,	30.00	1.00
Woodville,	25.00	1.00
Total,	\$523.00	\$24.00

Benevolent Collections.

The following is apportioned to each charge for benevolences for the ensuing Conference year :

CHARGES.	Missions,	Church Extension,	Education,	Sunday Schools,	Tracts,	Total,
Baldwin	\$10 00	\$6 00	\$12 00	\$1 00	\$1 00	\$30 00
Beaumont, Port Arthur.	8 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	20 00
Crowley	20 00	10 00	20 00	1 00	1 00	52 00
Duson ..	5 00	3 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	14 00
Ebenezer.	10 00	7 00	14 00	1 00	1 00	33 00
French Mission:						
Lafayette, Pine Grove.	20 00	10 00	12 00	1 00	1 00	44 00
Jennings	25 00	15 00	25 00	1 00	1 00	67 00
Lake Charles ..	20 00	13 00	25 00	1 00	1 00	60 00
La Porte, Texas City ...	10 00	6 00	7 00	1 00	1 00	25 00
Lake View	8 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	20 00
Marshall	12 00	6 00	10 00	1 00	1 00	30 00
Oberlin	8 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	20 00
Pine Woods	6 00	4 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	15 00
Raymond, Lakeside	16 00	8 00	14 00	1 00	1 00	40 00
Shelbyville	12 00	6 00	10 00	1 00	1 00	30 00
Welsh	8 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	20 00
Woodville	12 00	6 00	10 00	1 00	1 00	30 00

Grand total.....\$550 00

Resolutions of Respect.

WHEREAS, The Superintendent of the Fifth session by Bishop Walden has been so full of brotherly kindness, so full of the spirit of Christ, and so wise as to win our hearts to him, therefore,

Resolved, That we assure him we shall look forward with glad anticipation to his return to us as a Presiding Bishop of this Mission Conference, hoping that not many years may intervene.

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Gulf Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, are placed under deep obligations to the people of Jennings for the hospitality and royal entertainment given to the members of this Gulf Mission Conference, therefore,

Resolved, That we assure them of our gratitude for their genial hospitality, and feel that we have been blessed by their association, and trust that our stay among them will be a pleasant memory.

We, the members of the Gulf Mission Conference, wish to express our appreciation of the hospitality and kindly manner with which we were received and entertained upon our arrival at the seat of Conference by the Pastor, Ira N. Pardee, and wife, and for the splendid reception tendered the Bishop by I. D. Williams and wife at their residence.

Resolved, That the visit of Rev. W. A. Spencer, one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Church Extension Society, has afforded us much pleasure and hope that we may have the satisfaction of another visit from him at our next Conference. May the blessing of God attend him in his work.

C. H. HARRIS,

J. H. BURGER,

Committee.

REPORTS.

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NAMES OF CHARGES.	CHURCH PROPERTY.									
	C'H MEMB'S P.	BAP	SUN'Y SCH.	No. Churches	Probable Value.	No. Parson'gs	Probable Value.	Pres. indebt's on Ch. prop'y	Pd. on old indebt's Ch. pr.	Pd. bid'g. and imp'ving Chs. and Parson'gs
Baldwin	6		1							
Beaumont	1		1					450		
Crowley		4	1					360	10	16
Ebenezer	19	17	2							50
Jennings	22	9	1							1080
Lake Charles	4	3	1							150
Lake View	9	2	1					250		
La Porte		1	1					30		
Oberlin			1					125		
Pine Woods	4		1							
Raymond	20	2	3						20	25
Shreveport	1	1	1							15
Welsh	1	2	2					310		
Woodville	10	1	3							
French Work	7	6	1							
Total 1897	104	46	22					1336	30	1645
Total 1896	71	25	14					790	38	1735
Gain or loss	33	21	8					546	8	90

STATISTICS No. 2.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.		No. Schools.	No. Officers and Teachers	No. Scholars all grades.	Average attendance.	No. Memb's in Home Dept.	No. Offic's and Teachers Ch. Members or Probationers.	No. Scholars, whether attendants or members in home dept., ch.mbs. or probation's	No. Membs.S. S. converted during year.	Current Expenses.
NAMES OF CHARGES.										
Baldwin.....	1	6	30	26			4	6		20
Beaumont and Port Arthur	1	6	45	18			6		4	
Crowley	1	9	50	38			8		6	22
Ebenezer	2	16	180	90			16	100		12
Jennings	1	14	126	98			13	53		50
Lake Charles.....	1	14	90	50			13	20	8	50
Lake View.....	2	14	75	60			14		7	10
La Porte and Texas City	1	5	58	34			4			25
Oberlin.....	1	6	31	25			6			6
Pine Woods	1	3	60	50			3		4	
Raymond	3	25	78	60	14		3		14	38
Shreveport and Minden	1	5	15				3			
Welsh	2	9	80	65			7	10	5	18
Woodville	3	9	60	60			9			
French Work.....	1	5	65	40			4		2	12
Total.....	22	146	1043	714		14	113	203	50	263

REPORTS.

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		PASTOR'S SUPPORT.			SUPPORT			CURRENT EXPENSES		
		CLAIMS.			PR. ELD.			SUP. BIS.		
		RECEIPTS.			Amt. paid.			Amt. ap'rt'd.		
		House rent.			Amount apportion'd			Total supp't pastors, Pr. Elds., Bishs.		
		Salary.			Deficien- cies.			Sexton, light, fuel.		
		Total.			Total.			S. S. lesson leaves		
CHARGE.	PASTOR.	House rent.	Salary.	Total.	House rent.	Salary.	Total.	House rent.	Salary.	Total.
Baldwin....	C. K. Woodson..									
Beaumont..	A. C. Williamson		16	16						
Crowley....	G. W. L. Smith.		273	273						
Ebenezer...	P. C. Chaney...	300	300	300	20	300	320	20	300	320
Jennings...	Ira N. Pardee...	300	300	300				12	300	312
Lake Charles	C. H. Harris....	600	600	600	20	600	620	12	600	632
Lake View..	A. Wilkinson....	470	470	470				50	470	520
La Porte...	T. Wilson	147	147	147				50	147	197
Oberlin	J. H. Burger....	225	225	225				10	225	235
Pine Woods	J. T. Gilman....							6		6
Raymond ..	J. F. Ross.....	400	400	400				1	400	401
Shreveport .	T. J. Browning..		36	36				9		9
Welsh.....	E. L. Wells.....	240	240	240				490	25	38
Woodville ..	W. C. Mann....	260	260	260				15	2	18
French Work	P. J. Robidoux..							116		
								2	2	12
Total 1897		2942	3048	3048	106	2450	2556	47	2969	263
Total 1896		1549	1800	1800	251	1492	1743	14	253	263
Gain or loss....		1393	1248	1248	145	958	778	7	8	

STATISTICS No. 4.

NAMES OF CHARGES.	MISSIONS.		BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS.		Children's fund.	Am. Bible Society.	Total other benev't colls.	Episcopal fund.	
	Church.	Sunday School.	Total.	Board of Ch. Extens.	Sun. School Union.	Tract Society.	Pub. Educ'n collection.		
Baldwin.....	23	5	28	10			40	2	80
Beaumont.....	6		6						6
Crowley.....	12		12	11	1	1	22	3	56
Ebenezer.....		8	8	7			1	1	17
Jennings.....	13	6	19	11	1	1	26	1	88
Lake Charles.....	7	5	12	4	1	1	1	1	20
Lake View.....		6	6	3	1			1	11
La Porte.....	3	2	5	2					7
Oberlin.....	6	2	8	6			4	1	19
Pine Woods.....	3		3						3
Raymond.....	5	4	9	5			3		17
Shreveport.....								9	9
Welsh.....	2		2				1		3
Woodville.....									
French Work.....	12		12	11	1	1	8	2	35
Conference Collection.....				30					
Grand total 1897.....	99	38	130	100	5	4	106	12	401
Grand total 1896.....	72	57	129	100	3	2	59	14	333
Gain or loss.....	27	19	1		2	2	47	18	18